

**Upper Valley Rowing Foundation
May 9, 2007
Board Meeting Minutes**

Board Members In Attendance: Bob Haynes, Winn Piper, Dick Grossman, Peter Davenport, Kristen Laine(left early), Buzz Congram, Jennifer Friend, Elizabeth Glenshaw, Peter Kermond, Phil Harrison, Steve Perry, Julie Stevenson

Non Board Members Present: Cyndi Stam-ED, Brenda Haynes, Mary Van Beuren, Mike VanBeuren, Leslie Sonder, Deb Smith, Brenda Sirovich, Ryan Richards, Ann Kraybill, Alan Stam

Board Members Absent: Chip Davis, Bill Proom
5:55pm Call to order

Final Nominating Committee Report-terms of board members: The question was brought up as to what the board seat terms were for each of the board members. The nominating committee included terms with the slate but the document has not be filed. Elizabeth Glenshaw of the nominating committee will bring the terms for each seat to the June meeting.

The master's women presented the results of an informal meeting: The main discussion of the meeting was how to manage the fact that there will be two competitive programs this coming summer and possibly again in the fall. The meeting did lots to clear up communication and the result of the meeting is summarized in the attached letter from the rowers to UVRF. Their goal is to provide more active participation in the club. This was embraced and welcomed by the board.

Committee Reports

Programming – Since the summer programs were listed on the website one week ago the enrollment is coming in strong. 6 women and 1 male have enrolled in the competitive program, and 6 intermediate people have enrolled. The sculling clinics are not getting the normal activity and Cyndi is watching closely as this program had a price increase this year. The junior program has not had activity either but she stated this is not surprising given that are in the midst of their spring season currently.

Dartmouth has offered up 2 singles and a double for sale. Given that the annual appeal is down this year and there are some shifts in programming the finance committee was asked to review the numbers before moving forward on purchasing these boats.

Boathouse/facilities – Wilder: Need to meet with a coalition of neighbors concerned about the development of a UVRF program. They have asked us to withdraw our application. The committee feels we should defer and shift to supporting the Hartford recreation department in putting together a rowing program but not continue to look to this site as the main site for the club. It was also agreed that we cannot facilitate a Hartford rec program this year. Bob and Cyndi will meet with Hunter Reisberg of the Hartford rec department in the coming week. Yet, the board agreed that we should put out an offer to have Hartford juniors join UVRF's learn to row program and then flow into the ongoing junior program at UVRF. There are two members willing to subsidize some Hartford rowers who may need some scholarship type funding. In addition a flyer will be posted at KUA and at the Lebanon High School for other juniors who would like to row.

Fullington Farm: The committee is in active discussions with Dartmouth about this property. Purchase price for this piece of property will be around \$500k. The issues with this space have to

do with parking, trailer space, docks and the sludge on the edge of the river. The committee has been authorized to continue to proceed and put in an offer with contingencies having to do with the issues cited above. The board gave the committee the ability to put in an offer with contingencies using a deposit of up to \$5k. The motion-To give the building committee the ability to draft an offer contract and have the development committee solicit funds in the order of \$5k for the Fullington site. Moved by Peter Kermond, seconded by Kristen Laine. Motion carried unanimously.

Norwich: Still on the table and is right across from Fullington. This may be a space that can be used by the club if the high school is set on another property. The issues that face this spot are the railroad and the need to get railroad crossing bars at approximately \$300k. The committee is looking at some adjoining land that would help make this space more promising for the club.

Lastly a motion was made to have UVRF write a letter of support on behalf of the Chieftain application for rowing docks. This motion was moved by Peter Kermond, seconded by Julie Stevenson. The motion passed unanimously. Cyndi Stam our ED is to send out the letter of support to Dick Podolick.

The committee asked to create three sub-groups adding in some additional folks given the fact that they are grappling with 3 properties and the possibility of the high school rowing out of the Chieftain next fall. Norwich-Phil, Dick, Martha Beatty; Chieftain-Julie Stevenson and Peter Kermond; Fullington-Bob Haynes, Alan Stam and Buzz Congram; Wilder-Cyndi Stam and Bob Haynes.

Finance – The books are fully up to date. The cashflow is tight. Right now the checking balance is fully from incoming program fees. The annual appeal has come in way under budget. Payables has two outstanding items, one rowing fee from last season which the board would like to continue to hold outstanding and the second with UK Architects for the boathouse work at Wilder. The fundraising committee and the board would like to come up with a payment plan for this outstanding UK balance. The board has asked the fundraising committee if they can help in procuring funds for this \$17k bill as it pertains to facilities and not operations.

Fundraising – No report submitted for this meeting. There was discussion regarding having Co-Chairs for this committee given that there are two main functions—facilities and operations and thus need different attentions—eg. Major Gifts and Annual campaign Chairs.

Other Business: We received a request from Tiger Shaw as to whether we would be willing to lease our office space. This could help us save up to \$200 per month of cost. The board agreed this would be great as long as we have space for our files.

A request to discuss how the club should work with rowers that have physical limitations. Given that we want to be as open to all interested in rowing but at the same time having to be mindful of safety, Winn Piper is going to talk with Liz Ann Peyton (a person that handle people with limitations regularly) and Kitty Scott (our legal council) to discuss how to handle these types of situations given where the club is at today.

Minutes from April: The vote to approve the April minutes was tabled until the June meeting. Next two meeting dates are: Thursday June 14th and Thursday July 12th at 5:45pm in the Hartford Municipal Building.

8:30pm – move to adjourn was made by Buzz Congram and seconded by Jennifer Friend.
Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Glenshaw
UVRF Secretary

-----Original Message-----

From: Brenda Sirovich [mailto:Brenda.Sirovich@Dartmouth.EDU]

Sent: Wednesday, May 09, 2007 10:24 AM

To: Jennifer K. Friend; pdavenport; Philip D Harrison; bill.proom@gfplp.com; eglenshaw@earthlink.net; Rowworks; Winthrop D. Piper; julie.stevenson@dresden.us; Robert Haynes; chip@rowingnews.com; kristenlaine@earthlink.net; Christopher W. Bordeau; wcongram@aol.com; Richard W. Grossman

Cc: Upper.Valley.Rowing.Foundation@VALLEY.NET

Subject: Letter from Masters Women Competitive Rowers

This email is to all UVRF Board members from our group of rowers; it is simply penned from my email account.

Board of Directors
Upper Valley Rowing Foundation
Norwich, VT
May 9, 2007

Dear Members of the Board:

We, the competitive women sweep rowers of UVRF, are writing in the hopes of building an honest, open, and positive relationship with the UVRF Board.

It has been an unfortunate and trying year for UVRF, for a number of reasons, and we recognize and appreciate the service of Board members who have seen us through these struggles and stayed on, and those who have newly volunteered to take on these challenges over the years ahead. We believe that we all share a desire and a dedication to foster true community rowing for all in the Upper Valley. The disharmony that events of the past year has led to is unfortunate; we believe it is of paramount importance for us to help the Board move the club in a positive direction this year and in the years to come, by attending Board meetings, joining committees, and otherwise becoming involved in our club. We appreciate the opportunity being offered to row competitively with UVRF this summer, and we recognize that, in being often the most visible group within our club, we need to try to set an example of what makes the sport of rowing so special: good sportsmanship, athleticism, and fun.

Regardless of how or where we choose to pursue our love of the sport this year, we remain committed to UVRF and the goal of building a club that provides a home to all rowers -- and wannabe rowers -- in the Upper Valley.

Sincerely,

UVRF Masters Women Competitive Sweep Rowers